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Agenda items 35, 39, 67 and 83

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Security Council
Sixty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 May 2012 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On 9 May 2012, the leadership of the Republic of Armenia undertook yet another provocative action by holding a military parade in the city of Khankendi situated in the occupied Daghlyq Garabagh (Nagorno Karabakh) region of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Particular attention in addressing such a defiant manifestation of force should be given to the formally announced occasion for the parade; the presence of President Serzh Sargsyan of the Republic of Armenia at the parade; and the publicly demonstrated armaments.

According to the Armenian official sources, the parade was dedicated to the celebration of the sixty-seventh anniversary of the end of the Second World War and the twentieth anniversary of the occupation by the Armenian armed forces of the city of Shusha — Azerbaijan's historical and cultural centre in Daghlyq Garabagh with a predominantly Azerbaijani population before the war. Against the background of Armenia's consistent policy of aggression, ethnic cleansing and annexation, the simultaneous celebration by that State's leadership of these two occasions runs contrary not only to elementary logic but also represents a profound disrespect for the memory of millions of people who gave up their lives for freedom of tyranny and colonization during the Second World War.

The visit of the President of Armenia to the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to witness a military parade, as well as the presentation of sophisticated weapons there once again exploded the myth that Armenia has nothing to do with the occupation of the territories of Azerbaijan. In reality, in addition to a convincing body of evidence attesting to the direct military aggression of Armenia against

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Azerbaijan and the former's effective military and political control over the latter's occupied territories, the parade demonstrated that Armenia continues building up its military presence in these territories and deploys, beyond international control, a great number of armaments and ammunitions there. Otherwise, the Armenian leadership should explain how the demonstrated types of weapons (see annexed photos), including unmanned spy aircraft which are reportedly manufactured in Armenia and which were presented publicly for the first time at a military parade in Armenia on 21 September 2011, appeared in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan.

The Republic of Azerbaijan expresses its strong protest against the warlike gesture of Armenia and the irresponsible rhetoric of its leadership. Such provocative actions as holding a military parade in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan to glorify occupation forces and subordinate armed bands, which are responsible for atrocious crimes committed against Azerbaijani civilians during the war, obviously run counter to Armenia's stated commitments both under international law and within the ongoing conflict settlement process. All the above-mentioned confirms that Armenia's policy continues to pose a serious threat to regional and international peace, security and stability and requires the constant attention and reaction of the United Nations and the broader international community.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35, 39, 67 and 83, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Agshin **Mehdiyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Photos from a military parade, held on 9 May 2012 in the presence of the President of the Republic of Armenia, in the occupied Daghlyq Qarabagh (Nagorno Karabakh) region of the Republic of Azerbaijan